planning tool for water supply and waste disposal. Before 1980 when the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commenced the adoptior of the classification system, there was literally no relationship between the drilling of new water supply wells and the placement of waste disposal sites,

The most controversial aspect of the classification system has been the designation of the GC areas. Within the Housatonic River basin, they were perceived by the local press and the public as sites where hazardous waste facilities could be located. Despite the controversy, it is recognized that the GC sites provide protection to the rest of the state of Connecticut from industrial or other discharges that could contaminate the ground water. Ir fact, the designated GC sites occupy only 0.3 percent of the land area of the state of Connecticut.

The classification system affects the siting and location of all permittee discharges in the state of Connecticut. It has no functional implications foi discharges that are not regulated under state law, e.g., nonpoint sources oi pollution such as residential septic systems or chemical storage tanks that are currently not subject to a state regulatory program.

In general, in GAA and GA areas, no discharges are allowed. These are areas that are at present used or should be useful as sources of drinking watei supply and that discharge into Class A surface waters. In GB areas, limitec industrial discharges are allowed although degradation of the ground watei is not allowed to occur intentionally. The state indicates that it would per mit only discharges in GB areas that have minute concentrations of heavj metals or other contaminants.

Areas classified as GC are potential sites for discharges of treated indus trial wastes and municipal wastes. In general, any industrial facility with i new discharge to ground water would have to be sited in a GC area, al though many existing industrial discharges are located in GB areas. Because of opposition within the Housatonic basin, the GC designation developed i somewhat different meaning from that given in any other basins. Withir the Thames basin, GC sites are only potentially available for municipa waste disposal. In the basins other than the Thames and Housatonic basins the classification allows the disposal of industrial or municipal waste afte: treatment. In all cases, potential dischargers must go through the necessary permit approvals prior to discharge. According to the state, the classifica tion system affects only the siting, not the control requirements, for dis charges.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires tha industrial or municipal dischargers and hazardous waste treatment, stor age, and disposal facilities meet applicable Resource Conservation and Re covery Act (RCRA), Best Available Technology (BAT), and state perfor mance or design, and monitoring requirements in all (including GC) areas However, the classification system may be used to influence the type o